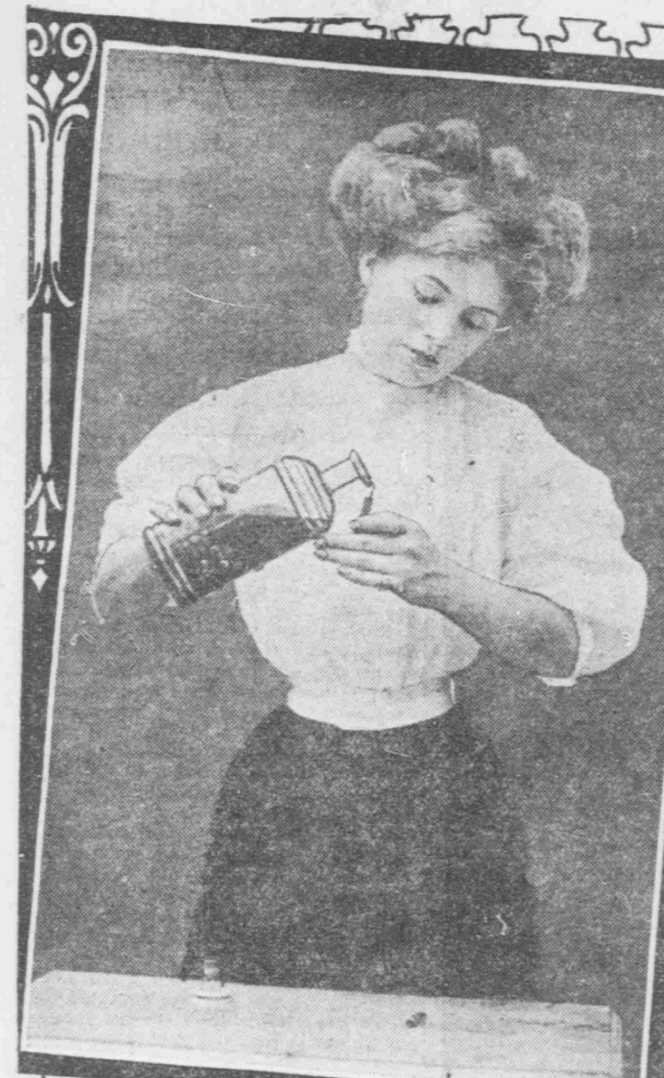


# SCHOOL FOR HOUSEWIVES

By Marion Harland

## A Talk on Deteratives



"If in filling a fountain pen."

IN this talk little attention will be paid to what one correspondent has called as "honest, everyday dirt." While we live and move and have our everyday being in a world the very air of which is dust-laden, our clothing, our draperies, our napery, and our persons must gather soil and grime. If this were inevitable, laundries would go out of business. Accidental discolorations are another branch of an important, if disagreeable, subject—a branch that borders on the tragic.

One lively woman writes: "So numerous have been the spillings, the sloppings, the leakages, and the scorchings in my household of late that I am more accustomed to the role of Lady Macbeth than to any other. I go about with dreary eyes and distraught mien, rubbing at real, not (alas!) imaginary spots, muttering insane ejaculations. My husband threatens to have me this photographed."

To save other women from like distraction, especially at a season of the year when fruit stains and mildew stains have had free course and are glorified, so to speak, I offer herewith deteratives, which have been tried and found faithful when properly applied.

Authors, editors, bookkeepers—all classes and conditions of men and women who write much—should have within easy reach a bottle of real spirits of hartshorn. Household ammonia is excellent in its way for cleaning clothing, etc. If used instantly, it will remove superficial ink stains. The pure spirits of ammonia acts quickly and effectively.

Keep upon washstand or desk a small bottle, with a glass or rubber stopper, full of spirits of ammonia. If, in filling a fountain pen, the fingers are blackened, or if the pen leaks or an inkstand overflows, wet a sponge with hartshorn, and wash the spot vigorously. Rinse at once in clear water. Soap sets ink and other acid stains. If all traces of the

accident have not disappeared, repeat the ammonia and the rubbing.

### CLEANING A HANDKERCHIEF.

If your handkerchief be soaked with ink, throw, while it is still damp, into a strong solution of spirits of ammonia. Leave it for fifteen minutes, rinse in clear, cold water and treat to another bath in a fresh supply of the solution. Wash well in this, rinse and lay in the sun to dry.

Another remedy is lemon juice. Not many weeks ago the blabber member of our household—moved, perhaps, by a hereditary tendency toward ink-slinging—divided the contents of an ink bottle impartially between the tiles of the bathroom floor and her white frock. I was out of the house at the time and knew nothing of the accident until the ink stains were twenty-four hours old. Turning a deaf ear to lamentations of the absolute hopelessness of the disaster, I saturated the ink spots with lemon juice, rubbed into them all the salt the juice would hold, and spread the frock in the hot sun. It lay there all day, kept moist by hourly applications of lemon juice. At night it was put to soak in a tub of soft, clear water. In the morning it was turned over to the laundress, with instructions to wash it in the usual way. When done, not a trace of the ink stain was left upon the muslin. This is but one of the many instances which have proved to me the efficacy of a simple, harmless detergent.

In that last adjective lies one prominent advantage of this and other vegetable acids for extracting sticky things of kind. Javelle water, chlorinated soda

and, indeed, chloride in any form are unsafe in careless, because inexperienced, hands. Unless the fabric under treatment be rinsed thoroughly in clear water within a few minutes after submitting it to the chemical, the latter results disastrously upon the threads. In extracting the color it weakens the stuff. Oxalic acid—although a vegetable product—will eat holes in stout linen, cotton or woolen in an incredibly brief time unless instantly rinsed out. A bath of an hour in lemon juice would not weaken the finest cambric lawn.

Another household detergent which gains in favor with each trial is cream of tartar. Dampen the stains with hot water and rub into them all the cream of tartar they will hold. Leave this on for ten minutes; then hold the injured parts under a stream of boiling water, repeating the process twice. Now lay the wet spots in the hottest sunshine five or six hours, keeping them wet. If the stains remain after the sunning, soak over night in pure water, and repeat the cream-of-tartar treatment next day. I have never known the process to fail, and I have tried it upon old and upon fresh ink spots.

Buttermilk or sour milk is a harmless, and often an effective, agent in the work of removing ink stains. Soak the spotted article over night in loper milk, or, if you can get it, very sour buttermilk. Next day rinse it twice in clear, soft water and lay it in the sun, wetting it hourly with lemon juice. If the ink is not entirely gone, repeat the process of soaking, rinsing and sunning.

Sweet milk produces desirable results when applied to wet ink spots. I have removed a big splash of ink from a velvet carpet by washing it instantly with skim milk. A cupful at a time was applied with a sponge saturated with dripping with the milk. As fast as the milk was darkened by squeezing of the sponge, it was thrown away and a fresh supply substituted. When no more ink could be sopped up, the milk remaining white after each immersion of the sponge, the wet place on the carpet was washed over with clear, warm water and coated with a paste of cornstarch. Three days later the starch was brushed out, and not a trace of the flood of ink appeared.

I dwell emphatically upon this gentle detergent for the reason that it may be applied to colored fabrics without injury to the most delicate tints; whereas the majority of the extractors I have enumerated can be used upon white goods alone. They draw out the body-color with the ink.

Just one word in regard to taking out rust stains. If the garment or article having rust on it be put into water in which a few teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar have been stirred, and boiled in it for a few minutes the rust will have disappeared and the goods be as clear as before it was damaged. Of course I suppose the goods to be white. I will not answer for any color.

### COFFEE STAINS.

Coffee and fruit stains are easily removed if, as soon as they are made, the soiled article is held tightly over a basin of hot water and wet thoroughly, and boiling water at the same time be poured through the stain once and again. The blemish will be washed away in less time than it takes to tell you how to do it. Neither coffee nor tea stains need be the bugbear housewives make of them. Both disappear in the family wash if this be tolerably well conducted.

Fruit stains may be removed by any



"Wetting with the lemon juice."



"Women who write much."

of the means suggested for eradicating ink. The ugliest and most obstinate of fruit spots are amenable to the somewhat heroic treatment here indicated: Lay them in hot water in which a generous handful of borax has been dissolved. Leave them thus for ten minutes; then rub and wring and lay them upon the grass in the hot sun for the rest of the day, wetting them every hour with the borax water. Rinse them in pure water and hang up for the night. Next day cover with lemon juice and salt milk. Into a paste and leave them again in the sun, wetting every hour with lemon juice. At night throw them into a tub of pure water and leave them there all night. Do them up with borax soap in the usual way.

The following process has once and again removed ink and peach stains, mildew and iron mold from my clothing and household linen. It will not rot dainty lingerie:

stains, rust, and mildew. Yet I prefer to submit my fine linens and muslins disfigured by iron mold or the unmistakable tokens of the laundress' carelessness to the gradual influence of lemon and salt or buttermilk, joined to the operation of bright sunlight and brisk airs upon hurt and married things. It takes more time, but my linens are sounder and whiter when my favorite agencies have had their way.

### A Trio of Useful Hints

Perfumed olive oil, sprinkled on library shelves, will prevent mold on books.

Mud stains can be removed from black cloth by rubbing them with a raw potato.

The juice of a raw onion applied to the sting of an insect will remove the poison.



"Coated with a paste of cornstarch."

Cover with a paste of salt and lemon juice and lay in the sun all day, wetting every hour with the lemon juice. At night wash with clear water and hang up. Next day renew the application. The process is slow, but sure and safe. Javelle water will dispose of fruit

### Cooking Cereals

Every cereal, with the exception of rice, that needs any cooking needs a great deal of it. Soaking over night is indispensable to the excellence of most meal goods; eight hours makes it better; twenty-four hours makes it best.

## The Housemothers' Exchange

I WANT to say a word about the article of "Miss C., of Detroit." I always smile when I read those four-dollar-a-week letters. I wish that I could do it, but I, like many others, think myself very economical on \$10 a week, and that does not include my servant's wages, laundry bill, etc. I must be a very poor manager. Yet when beef is from 17 to 20 cents per pound, fish out of season, spring chickens 25 cents apiece and to serve less than half an one to each person would be a rock-ery—I can't see how so many women do so much better than I.

Still I could not give my John a lettuce sandwich with the tea and cake for luncheon, or, for a change, a cheese sandwich. And my family consists of my husband, myself, and our servant, with company, perhaps, once a week.

The emergency shelf is a great help out of tight places, but it is also a great cost to keep it filled in, which fact I think "Miss C., of Detroit," did not count in.

I should like to add a little to your helpful page if you care to publish this. In the winter, when celery is plentiful and has such large leaves, cut off the leaves and put into a pasteboard box to dry. When they are dried put into a glass jar with a cover, and you will find it fine for seasoning soups, dressings, etc., when celery is scarce.

I never serve the outside pieces on the table, so they go for soup seasoning. Then I save the leaves and dry them, and for two months when celery is practically out of the market, except for millionaires, they are a resource as well as a saving.

I should like, furthermore, to say that after rugs, carpets, and draperies have been beaten ready to roll up and put away for the summer (I hold to the old way of hanging them on the line to be beaten, so I can see it done), give them a good sweeping with cornmeal dampened with ammonia. It will make them fresh and bright like new.

Lastly, will you tell me of something that will destroy large black ants? They come every summer to my porches and are an annoyance.

Mrs. I. E. M. (Nashville, Tenn.).

Whatever bears the Nashville postmark has a careful perusal at this end of the line. Our housemothers there contribute a wealth of aidful (is there such a word?) return to our Corner. This member is not an exception to the rule. She strikes the right note in setting forth the inexpediency (not to say the inhumanity) of feeding her working John upon bread and herbs. Such diet became the insane king who had the heart of an ox and browsed for seven years, with presumably the stomach of an ox, alongside of his own herds.

Brawny John, who works like a navvy from morn to night to provide things honest for those of his own household, has a right to demand blood-and-brawn-making victuals.

But where did our practical woman find spring chickens at 25 cents each? In eastern markets they bring 75 cents a pound when not much bigger than quails.

If you will swab the underside of the

last year's (and not a few of this year's) clothes collected upon the bed and tables in my sight at this blessed minute—all shiny in sections, some reminding one of the "more and more into the perfect day"—you would pity me.

My boys say they look like tramps when their shoulders and elbows and knees get glossy. My own black silk gowns shine as if buttered down the front of the skirts and on the underside of the sleeves. I am getting really nervous on this point. For nothing I know of does any good in the way of dulling the shine.

Put that valiant pen of yours in rest, there's a dear, and come to my rescue.

JANETTA W. W., Altoona, Pa.

Dear fellow-sufferer with every woman who reads this page, no new thing has befallen you! I do not pretend to try to say why all grades of silks and cloths do, as you declare, get glossy before they are beginning to wear down to the threads. But your mother is right. I, too, recollect when only second and third best stuffs took on that buttered look after a few months of moderate usage.

There are ways and means of abating the nuisance. We will consider a few of these for your express benefit, and, incidentally, for the edification of the rest of us who are beginning to take account of stock in forecasting the coming colder weather and resumption of settled habits of life.

Soap bark is one of the best mediums for the removal of "shine" from cloth. Many a suit that has not begun to be threadbare is thrown aside as too shabby for even everyday wear because it has grown glossy.

Take a handful of soap bark into it and dip into hot water. Use it as a sponge. Do not wipe the cloth dry. A black silk that has worn so "shiny" that it looks greasy may be cleaned by a "dull finish" by sponging with a mixture of equal parts of alcohol and ether. Add a generous tablespoonful of household ammonia to the mixture just before using. It is yet more effective if set in boiling water half an hour before it is used. Change the water for more, boiling hot, at the end of fifteen minutes, but do not take the corked bottle containing the wash near the fire. The contents are highly volatile, but should the cork blow out, there is no danger unless the alcohol is touched by artificial light.

### THANKS AND AN OFFER.

Some time ago I wrote to you asking if your readers could find for me two songs. Through the medium of the exchange three copies of one of these have reached me. I have written to thank two of the donors. The third gave no address. Should she complain of my lack of courtesy, please say that it is not my fault that she has not been thanked for her friendly act.

In return for the kindness of your wonderful Corner, I offer nearly three years of *Land's Home Journal* to any one who will call for them. Or I will carry them to any "shut-in" in our city.

EDNA F. G. (Germantown, Pa.).

The city, as will be seen, is Philadelphia. Germantown is a section of that wide-spreading municipality.

I hold the address of the writer of the pleasant letter.

### WANTS OLD BALLAD.

Apologies of the kindness done to her, here is another similar request. Even housemothers enjoy music and yearn for the songs we used to sing when we were "in practice," and were not—as one woman writes to me of herself—"chronically fatigued."

I read in a paper not so very long

## Family Meals for a Week

### SUNDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Grapes, cereal, and cream, broiled squabs, popovers, toast, tea, and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Cold tongue, thin bread and butter, baked Welsh rarebit, potato salad, oranges cut up and sugared, macaroons, cocoa.

#### DINNER.

Petites hermites soup (clear vegetable soup with fried toast on the surface), roast beef with browned sweet potatoes as garnish, vegetable marrow, suet pudding with liquid sauce, black coffee.

### MONDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Oranges, hominy and cream, bacon, French rolls (warmed up), toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Mince of tongue (a left-over), chopped sweet potatoes (a left-over), lettuce salad, crackers and cheese, cream puffs, tea.

#### DINNER.

Tomato soup, roast beef à la mode (a left-over), mashed potatoes, eggplant, rice pudding, black coffee.

### TUESDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Fruit, cereal and cream, savory omelet, white and brown bread, toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Cold beef (a left-over), scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, crackers and cheese, banbury tarts, tea.

#### DINNER.

Cream of carrot soup, lamb's liver en casserole, string beans, spinach, tapioca custard, black coffee.

### WEDNESDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Fruit, cereal and cream, bacon and fried tomatoes, graham gems, toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Scalloped liver and macaroni (a left-over), soufflé of spinach, string beans

(reheated with a sauce of butter and lemon juice), cookies and cheese, tea.

#### DINNER.

Corn soup, Irish stew, lima beans, squash, baked peach dumplings with brandy sauce, black coffee.

### THURSDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Oranges, cereal and cream, Philadelphia scrapple, corn bread, toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Yesterday's stew, baked sweet potatoes, green corn fritters, lettuce salad, crackers and cheese, bread pudding, tea.

#### DINNER.

Succotash soup (a left-over from two days), boiled fowls with egg sauce, Spanish rice, scalloped squash (a left-over), beets, lemon jelly, cake, black coffee.

### FRIDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Oranges, cereal and cream, Finnan haddie, Johnny cake, toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Clam fritters, potatoes stuffed with fish and crumbs, Spanish rice scalloped (a left-over), cake and stewed rhubarb, cocoa.

#### DINNER.

Chicken soup (a left-over, based on liquor in which fowls were boiled), beefsteak and mushrooms, onions creamed, macaroni with tomato sauce, orange fritters, black coffee.

### SATURDAY.

#### BREAKFAST.

Grapes, oatmeal and cream, bacon and fried hominy, toast, tea and coffee.

#### LUNCHEON.

Mince of chicken on toast (a left-over), baked cream toast, lettuce and beef salad (a left-over), crackers and cheese, fruit dessert, tea.

#### DINNER.

Chicken and oyster broth (a left-over), beefsteak and mushroom pie (a left-over), mashed potatoes, green corn, green tomato, mince pie, black coffee.